

SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT: Coal Production in Hungary

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1. The mines of Tatabanya, about 50 km west of Budapest, are the most important coalfields in Hungary. Mining has been going on there for 50 years, but the equipment is quite modern, with electric railroads, drilling machines and pumps. Six or seven shafts have been exhausted, but nine or ten are now being worked. The quality of the coal is excellent and operations are to be extended.

2. The work force, including forced laborers, is about 10,000 men. They are worked in three eight-hour shifts. At present about 2.5 million tons a year are being taken out. Of this, 50 percent is large coal; 20 to 25 percent each, nut and gravel coal; and about five percent coal dust. Tatabánya also has a briquette factory with a daily production of 70 to 80 carloads.

3. The coal is taken away by railroad. The main users are the Bányhidu power station, the Budapest gas works, the state railroads, some war industries and building heating installations in Budapest.

4. Forty km northwest of Budapest, at Dorog in the trans-Danube there is another large mining installation on the Budapest-Győr-Vienna line. This one also has been worked for 50 years. There is a branch installation at Tokod, five km away. The Tokod branch has good modern electric equipment.

5. The Dorog mines employ 6,000 to 7,000 men, also working in three shifts. Yearly production is about 1.5 million tons, in proportions like those at Tatabánya. There is a briquette factory at Dorog and a chemical works for the production of tar, benzol and other byproducts. Dorog coal goes to the same places. The government intends to extend operations at Dorog for the benefit of the chemical industry.

6. The Várpalota mines are about 100 km southeast of Budapest, on the line of Székesfehérvár and Veszprém. The Communists have decided to make Várpalota a model installation. It has its own electric power station.

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7. There are about 1,500 men working in three shifts and the yearly production is six to seven hundred thousand tons. At least 80 percent of this is the highest grade coal. Várpalota supplies industrial installations particularly.

8. Komló at present ~~is the oldest~~ is being a ~~modern~~ installation in the industry. Formerly it was intended to serve the Mohács industrial combine in south Hungary, but as that combine is not yet complete the Komló mines are supplying the coke factory at Pécs. The work force is 3,000 in three shifts. Thanks to the depth of the shafts the work here is very difficult in spite of the modernization of the mines. The yearly production is about 500,000 tons, 25 percent in large coal, 25 percent in smithy coal, 45 percent gravel coal and five percent in coal dust.

9. The mines at Pécs are among the largest in Hungary. They include the mines of Pécsbányatelep, Mecsekszabolcs, Vasas, Franz-Joseph shaft, Szécsény shaft, and István shaft. These mines were the property of a German-Hungarian Danube shipping company until 1945, at which time they were turned over to the Hungarian-Soviet shipping company, the Mészart.

10. The mines are well organized and modernized with electrical equipment. Only a small part of them require pumps. The deepest go to 1,400 m. The 8,000 workers in three shifts turn out one million tons a year. The greatest part of this production goes to Soviet ships on the Danube, only a small part going to Hungarian industry. The production is transported partly by railroad, partly by ship. The mines have their own coal loading railroad station.

11. The Maza mine is about 30 km north of Pécs on the Bonyhád-Dombóvár line. Equipment is modern. The work force of 2,500 is in three shifts and yearly production is 400,000 tons, almost all gravel coal. The coal goes to industries and houses in the southern trans-Danube region. No extension is planned.

12. The mines placed in production at Ajka in the early 30s are about 30 km west of Veszprém. The area also produces bauxite. The mines have 800 workers in three shifts, producing about 250,000 tons a year, almost all gravel coal. The whole of this production goes to the aluminum and glass factories at Ajka. The mines are to be modernized and enlarged in order to increase aluminum production.

13. Pusztavám is about 70 km west of Budapest, near Mór. The mines employ about 300 workers in three shifts. They are only partly electrified. The production is about 150,000 tons a year of gravel coal, which goes mainly to small industry.

14. The mine management of Salgótarján, 110 km north of Budapest, includes a number of branches, Salgótarján itself, Kistérnyé, Nagybátony, Mátránovák, Mátramindszentsé, Gyöngyös, Rózsaszentmárton and Ambrusvölgy. These are brown coal mines with a yearly production of 3 million tons altogether. The number of workers is about 25,000, in three shifts.

15. Equipment varies much from place to place. The Salgótarján installations are very modern, while those at Ambrusvölgy are quite primitive. A program for rapid modernization and the increase of production has been set up. Part of the production goes to the steel mill and glass factory at Salgótarján, 30 percent to the Hungarian state railways, the remainder to Budapest, Szeged, Debrecen and Szolnok.

16. The center of the Borsod coal fields in north Hungary is Miskolc. To this area belong the mines of Király, Sajószentpéter, Sajókazinc, Barcika, Putnok, Rudabánya, Ózd and a number of small mines. The equipment varies a good deal. Sajókazinc, Barcika and Sajószentpéter are partly electrified and partly mechanical. The modernization of the rest is proceeding slowly. The number of workers is about 25,000 in three shifts, and yearly production is about 3.5 million tons. The coal goes particularly to the iron and steel foundries of Diosgyőr and Ózd, the new chemical combine of Sajóbáony and the power station at Kazincbarcika.

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